MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

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MILITARY SERVICE IN 3 WARS

Midwest Computer Genealogists will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 18 in Bromwell Lounge at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri. Our speaker will be MCG President Al Morse who will speak about "Charles McDaniel".. We all know Al through his "The President's Corner" articles about his own family history and genealogical research and those of his wife, Dorothy (Newcomb) Morse

For several years, Al has written his "The President's Corner" articles for this newsletter about his family, and Dorothy has provided some additional information about her various family lines. He is creating a record about their families that he has passed on to his brother, Carl, and to their sons, Brian and Steve, and they will be able to preserve the family history for future generations. We encourage all of our members to write their own family histories so their family research can also be passed on to future generations. .

Al planned to present this program in February, but we had to cancel that meeting because of snow. He will tell the story of Dorothy's McDaniel family line with emphasis on her great uncle, Charles McDaniel (1894-1917), brother of her grandfather, James McDaniel, and her uncle, Charles McDaniel (1917-1950), the son of James and brother of Dorothy's mother, Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb.

Al is a native of Rich Hill in Bates County, Missouri. He attended Rich Hill schools for 12 years, and he met Dorothy there in high school. Al attended The University of Central Missouri, where he received his degree in Education with a major in Mathematics in 1963. He and Dorothy were married the day after he graduated and moved to Independence, where Al taught in the junior high school and high school for 35 years. He taught all levels of Mathematics, including special Advanced Placement courses for college-bound students.

The first Charles McDaniel served in the Army during World War I, and the second served in both World War II and the Korean War, where he was missing in action and presumed dead from November, 1950 until last summer. His remains were returned by North Korea, and testing, including DNA testing, helped to identify his remains. Dorothy had previously participated in DNA testing so her uncle could be identified if he was ever found. His remains were taken to Hawaii for testing and identification, and his sons also provided DNA evidence at that time. His remains were returned to his sons for burial, and he was buried in Indianapolis, where his son, Charles Jr. And his widow now live. We invite you to join us on May 18 for this presentation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

I grew up in Rich Hill, Bates County, Missouri. Memorial Day was an important day. My mother, Mildred (Janssens) Morse was child number 12 in a family of 14. Her parents, David and Laura (Mooney) Janssens, were buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Rich Hill. So there were usually some of her brothers or sisters and their families that would come to Rich Hill to go to the cemetery. Live flowers were collected and placed in jars or cans with water, at the grave sites.

The Janssens family moved to Bates County, near Foster, in 1917. David (1854-1920) died December 2, 1920. The family chose to have him buried in the

Rich Hill Cemetery. This was probably because those family members living in the Kansas City area could travel by car or train to Rich Hill easier than to Foster. A son, Lester, (1892-1932), was buried near his father. Laura (1871-1939) was buried by her husband. A son Philip (1890-1950) and a son, Clarence (1901-1972) are buried there as well.

After Dorothy and I were married, we started our own Memorial Day tradition. Before we retired, we usually went on a weekend prior to Memorial Day. We would visit my parents and go to Greenlawn Cemetery. My parents, Albert Frank (1909-1972) and Mildred Catherine (Janssens) (1910-1982) Morse, are now buried in a plot next to the Janssens, .

Dorothy's parents are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Butler, Missouri. They are Herbert Edgar (1911-1978) and Dorothy (McDaniel) (1915-1999) Newcomb. Herb's brother and his wife, Earl S. (1908-1974) and Opal Leona (Ingersoll) (1914-1959) Newcomb, are buried in a nearby plot. Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb's parents, James E. (1891-1977) and L. Ethel (Burke) (1896-1973) McDaniel, are buried in another nearby plot. Next to them, is their son Jewell F. McDaniel (1916-1959).

We also started going to the Morris Cemetery, which is located a few miles southwest of Butler. Herbert Newcomb's parents are buried there. They are Ralph (1883-1933) and Sarah (Gaston) (1885-1954) Newcomb. We later discovered Sarah's parents are also buried there. They are Isaac (1854-1916) and Martha Ellen Wilson) (1858-1931) Gaston. Also two other Gaston children are buried there. They are Minnie Martha (Gaston) (1893-1934) and John S. (1896-1974) Ehart and Alpha (1894-1975) and George (1889-1939) Gaston.

We also went to the Salem Cemetery in Foster. My father's parents, Clark Frank (1882-1973) and Alma Dona (Miller) (1885-1969) Morse, are buried there. Frank's parents and one brother are also buried in the same plot. They are Peter Y. (1830-1916) and Nancy (Ward) (1840-1911) Morse and Peter (1876-1948) Morse. In another plot, is Frank's sister, Mary Ella (Morse) Briscoe, (1878-1945). Also my wife's great grandmother, Barbara (Crawley) (1853-1938) Newcomb, is buried in the Salem Cemetery. Her husband, Cyrus M. Newcomb (1839-1920), is buried in the Nemo-Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Nemo, Hickory County, Missouri. After Cyrus died, the family brought Barbara to Bates County where she lived until she died. Dorothy and I visited the grave of Cyrus a couple of times.

Later on, we started going to the Woodfin Cemetery near Foster. I discovered I had a lot of relatives buried there. This includes a set of second great grandparents, great grandparents, an uncle and his wife, and aunt and her husband, cousins, and many other relatives. (This could be another article).

This year, 2019, I have a new cemetery to visit. It is Mt. Washington Cemetery in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. In 2005, after Dorothy had survived a massive illness and surgery, we started talking about cemeteries. We had talked about Bates County where our families were buried, but we had made our home in Independence. We started looking at the cemeteries that were there. We chose Mt. Washington Cemetery. It is an historic cemetery. There are many leading citizens of Jackson County buried there, including the famous frontiersman and mountainman Jim Bridger. There was also the Mt. Washington Funeral Home on the property. We prepaid for our funeral and bought a plot that could bury three bodies. We bought three spaces because of our unmarried son. We had our stone erected. Then Mt. Washington Funeral Home went bankrupt because the prepaid monies were misused by the leaders. We then visited with Charter Funerals and prepaid a second time, but for a lesser amout, as they were trying to help the people hurt by the bankruptcy. It is a beautiful, but hilly cemetery. Our family will be decorating Dorothy Jean (Newcomb) Morse's (1942-2019) grave site this year.

(Note: Al plans to bring some family items that were included in Dorothy's memorial service in January. We were pleased to see some of her paintings there)

RECOMMENDED READING : "WORLD WAR II DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD COLLECTION UPDATE"

Read the article by Jenny Ashcraft of Fold3: https://blog.fold3.com/wwii-draft-registration-card-collection-update/

DRAFT REGISTRATION

Marjorie Slavens

I have never searched for, nor did I even think about looking for my father's World War II Draft Registration. He wanted to serve, but he was classified 4F because of a hearing problem. He also had three children when the war began, and there was a fourth in 1944. I had looked at the registrations for World War I for both of my grandfathers, neither of whom served, but I have now looked back at those registrations to compare them with my father's registration.

Ralph Westmeier Slavens in the U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947
Name: Ralph Westmeier Slavens
Gender: Male
Race: White
Age: 33
Relationship to Draftee: Self (Head)
Birth Date: 28 May 1907
Birth Place: Seymour, Indiana, USA
Residence Place: Columbus, Kansas, USA
Registration Date: 16 Oct 1940
Employer: St Louis Smelting and Refining Co
Weight: 172
Complexion: Light
Eye Color: Brown
Hair Color: Brown
Height: 5 10
Next of Kin: Ralph Westmeier Slavens
Household Members:
Name Relationship
Ralph Westmeier Slavens Self (Head)

(Source Citation: The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; Record Group: Records of the Selective Service System, 147; Box: 356)

My mother should have been listed as "Next of Kin", and there were three children in the household when he registered, but he apparently did not think about the question when he answered.. There was a fourth child in 1944.

This archived edition of the May 2019 MCG newsletter has had content removed from the original that is inconsistent with our Creative Commons License.

SEARCHING AGAIN ON ANCESTRY

Marjorie Slavens

It has been a while since I have dedicated a concentrated period of time systematically searching for family members on Ancestry.com. I have Ancestry, Fold3, Archives, and Newspapers memberships for general research purposes, and I recommend all of these sites for different reasons. I do not drive, so I cannot go to the various excellent libraries in this area, but I certainly recommend library research, which is cheaper than the memberships.

Recently, I looked for information about her great grandfather for a friend. I decided to use Ancestry for my search, and there have been some significant improvements since I last used it extensively. I started with her great grandparents in Ohio. Several of my great grandparents also had lines that passed through Ohio. Her great grandparents, in one case, were from the same county, Auglaize, as one of my great grandmothers, Elizabeth Crawford Branin Kerr. I found her great grandfather in the same Illinois County, Dewitt, as Elizabeth. My great grandfather, Charles Merlin Kerr, thought he was born in Dewitt County, but he was born in Piatt County, just east of Dewitt. Both of our families left Illinois to live in Kansas; mine did not stay but moved to the Missouri side not far from the Kansas border.

I traced her parents' lines from Ohio to Kansas. My Parents' Slavens,Weltys, Crawfords, and Kerrs migrated from Ohio to Illinois and then to the border area of Missouri and Kansas.

Because of the research I was doing for her, I was inspired to look at some of the family records my mother had found many years ago. I found some information that I had not seen before, such as my father's draft registration from 1940. I then looked for his father, William Howard Slavens (1883-1940) in the World War I draft records but could not find him. I thought he should have been there but then remembered that he had enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1900 when he was 17 years old, too young to make that decision himself. He served on a ship that was present in England at the time of the coronation of King Edward VII, the son of Queen Victoria, who died after a long reign in 1901. Some of the coins my father had in his collection were coins saved by his father during his Naval service. My grandfather would probably not have been required to register for the draft in 1917-1918 since he had served previously. I do not know that this was the reason for no draft registration and will continue to search, but I would guess that my assumption is correct.

In both of these family searches, I found some misspellings and misinformation in the Index. There are several possible reasons for such errors, and we are encouraged by Ancestry to submit corrections. In some cases, the Census takers either did not write very well or spelled names as they thought they should be. In some cases, the person providing the information did not give correct information. In the 1880 Census, my great grandfather, Henry Welty's mother was listed as born in Pennsylvania. Her grandparents left Pennsylvania and established themselves in Virginia, where she and her father were born. It may be that Henry's wife, Catharine Mary Eppright Welty, provided the information and did not know where her mother-in-law was born.

In the 1920 Census, my grandfather is listed as Howard H. Slavens, but his name was William Howard, and he is generally listed in other Census records as W. Howard Slavens. My friends grandfather's name was misspelled and would generally not be located in a search because the first letter of the surname was incorrect. However, someone had corrected the spelling, which Ancestry encourages.

I am still looking for the immigration records for some of our lines. With the exception of two family lines, the Westmeiers and the Gillmans of Indiana, our families were all in this country before 1750, and the early records are not as easy to find. The Westmeier and Gillman family books were done by Jesse F. Westmeier, a younger brother of my grandmother, Edna Marie Westmeier Slavens. He published his first edition in 1953, and the information came from the family. We have confirmed some of the records, but more research needs to be done.

Another researcher says, "In different records, his father was recorded both as Fredrick, John F. and John H. Westmeier. His mother was recorded as Clara M., Marie, Anna and Clara Maria Elizabeth (Mary) Nolte." The 1850 census shows Frederick and Mary Westmeier as the parents of Christian (my great grandfather) Westmeier's older brother and sisters, and the 1860 census lists the same names for the parents. Their son, Christian, was born in 1852-53 as listed in that census. In the 1870 census, Chris Westmeier lives with his parents, John F. (Frederick) And Mary.

Although he was born in this country, Christian Westmeier did not read or write English and did not speak it well. His daughter, Edna Marie Westmeier Slavens, my grandmother, did not learn to speak English until she went to school. Her family lived in a German-speaking section of Seymour, Indiana, where she married Howard Slavens, and my father, Ralph Westmeier Slavens, was born there. In 1908, when he was 1 year old, they moved to Arkansas, where my grandfather bought a small farm with money he inherited from his grandfather, George Washington Slavens of Clinton, Missouri. The farm was not productive, and the Howard Slavens family then moved to Pittsburg, Kansas, where they lived for almost 20 years before they moved to Oklahoma, where my father and my grandfather worked for oil companies and where my older sister and I were born. Because of the Great Depression, we moved to Pittsburg in 1939, Columbus, Kansas in 1940, and Carl Junction, Missouri in 1941. By that time, my father worked in the mines, as he indicated on his draft card registration form.

Ancestry also provided some excellent hits for other possible information at the bottom of the page on which I was searching. My Ancestry searches were much easier and more productive than those I had done several years ago.

(Note: We welcome articles for our newsletter, which is published each month. If you have found some new significant information about your family, you may want to contribute an article. We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on May 18))

OFFICERS:

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